Adoption of better technological and manpower discipline in SAIL plants.

Delicensing of the steel sector, with certain conditions where substantial foreign exchange is involved, so as to allow establishment of new plants in the private sector.

Production of Telecommunication Equipments

1300. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production of telecommunication equipments within the country during 1990-91;

(b) the scope for export of such equipments; and

(c) whether equipments produced in the country are competitive in the international market quality-wise and price-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The details of production of major telecom equipment in the country during 1990-91 is given below:—

Type of Equipment	*Production during* 1990-91 *Qty.*	*Value (Rs. in Crores)*
1. Telecom Switching equipment	12.5 lakh lines	825
2. Telecom Transmission equipment	4450 terminals	373
3. Telephone Instruments	18.80 lakh numbers	171

(b) and (c) The scope for export of telecom equipment like telephone instruments appear to be promising, with further improvements in quality and price-competitiveness.

Impact of Delayed Monsoon on Agriculture

1301. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of the delayed monsoon on the kharif crops, especially paddy and other important cereals;

(b) the steps taken to ensure that agriculturists get the necessary inputs in areas where delayed monsoon has affected crops;

(c) whether the monsoon this year is going to be normal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) It is early to assess the overall impact of the delayed monsoon on the kharif crops as planting is still going on. However, due to the late arrival of monsoon in north-west India and Gujarat and also inadequate rains in some parts of the country the planting of kharif crops especially that of paddy has been delayed. The delay in planting of the kharif crops may affect the production.

(b) As advised by the Union Ministry of Agriculture the Contingency Crops Plans have been prepared and are being implemented by the States in affected areas. Arrangements are also being made by the State for the supply of planting material of alternative crops & Crop varieties to the farmers and for the supply of diesel and power for irrigation.